

Northampton and Amherst Restaurant and Schools Composting Project

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Funded by MA DEP



Demographics

- Northampton
 - ◆ pop. 29,000
 - ◆ 35 square miles
- Amherst
 - ◆ pop. 35,000
 - ◆ 28 square miles

Results

- Diverting 8.5 tons/week
- 30 restaurants and 5 schools
- 21 more restaurants soon
- 5 waste haulers
- 2 compost sites

Existing infrastructure

- Over 10 years of work by various parties
- At peak of tracking, over 70 participants diverting 100 -200 tons per week
- Diverse participants – supermarkets, manufacturers, institutions, restaurants
- Multiple haulers, compost sites - compactors, dumpster, and tote routes
- Substantial initial work to start up and keep going: training, hauler arrangements, monitoring, contamination problems

Role of CET

- Program development
- Outreach
- Design and set-up
- Training
- Monitoring
- Reporting

Restaurant Composting

- Partnership between Town, City and CET
- Boards of Health are advocates, not adversaries
- Funded by Mass. DEP, Town of Amherst and City of Northampton

What is leading to success

- Working with restaurants' current haulers and some innovative subcontracts
- Parking situation can be a catalyst
- Cost avoidance or no additional costs for many participants
- Address space concerns with sheds and clustering of restaurants; joint RFPs
- City-funded mini grants for equipment and site improvements
- Small, local haulers
- Some restaurants have community, health consciousness

Outreach and Implementation

- Survey sent to all food establishments
- Media
- Sanitarian is advocate
- Chamber of Commerce
- On-site outreach and training
- Monitoring and trouble shooting

Cooperative RFPs

- Contract right to provide service on City property
- Guaranteed pricing with caveats
- Businesses can opt out, but must document alternate plan
- Copy of RFP available at www.cetonline.org/publications.htm

- Fixed costs:
 - ◆ Two 22CY compactors = \$700/month
 - ◆ Lease (to City) = \$200/month
 - ◆ Tip fees:
 - ★ refuse = \$ 70/ton
 - ★ recyclables & organics = \$0/ton
- Variable costs:
 - ◆ Refuse compactor = \$ 60/haul
 - ◆ OCC/paper compactor = \$100/haul
 - ◆ Mixed containers (95 gal tote) = \$ 4.75/pickup
 - ◆ Compostables (95 gal tote) = \$ 3.45/pickup

Northampton Schools

- 4 elementary and 1 middle school
- 2000 students
- 40 tons/year of compostables
- Projected savings per year =\$1000

School Waste IFB

- Able to periodically adjust container sizes and pickup frequencies as needed
- Utilized 30B exemption for waste management contracts
- Copy of IFB available at www.cetonline.org/publications.htm

Challenges

- Not enough capacity
 - ◆ Primary
 - ◆ Secondary (back-up)
- Changing regulatory environment
- \$25/ton tipping fee too low

Workshop and Tour

- Thursday, May 1, 2003 8:30-3:00
- Depot Restaurant, Northampton
- Agenda and registration on table in back
- \$10 fee, must register by April 1, 2003. Space is limited.
- Toolkit available at workshop or free download (after May 1) from www.cetonline.org/publications.htm